

## SOUTHEAST REGION



### **Winona Climate Action Network: Winona DC Fast Charger for EVs**

Winona, MN – The Winona Climate Action Network plans to help close the gap in electric vehicle charging stations in the Highway 61 corridor by installing three publicly-available stations on the grounds of Winona State University. These new chargers will elevate the visibility of electric vehicles within the Winona community and serve as a focal point for future community outreach efforts surrounding renewable energy transportation technologies. (\$3,030)

### **Ridgeway Community School: Ridgeway Community Solar Project**

Houston, MN – The Ridgeway Community School will hire a contractor from paleBLUEdot to assist with the logistical and financial research necessary to develop a feasible plan for a photovoltaic array. The goal is to offset a portion of the school's electrical use and possibly also that of a handful of community member investors. The solar array would serve to both lighten the financial burden for the school and provide an example to the community of how clean energy technologies can cut down on utility bills. (\$2,000)

### **City of La Crescent: La Crescent Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

La Crescent, MN – The City of La Crescent will install two level two electric vehicle charging stations adjacent to the city's new event center and hotel. By installing these stations, La Crescent hopes to promote renewable energy-based transportation options, educate drivers on the lower operating costs associated with electric vehicles, provide electric vehicle charging options within the city itself. (\$3,030)

### **Mankato West High School YES! Team: Scarlets RetroLED the Hallways!**

Mankato, MN – The YES! Team at Mankato West High School plans to reduce electricity usage by nearly 50% by replacing 731 lightbulbs in the school with energy-efficient LEDs. In addition to the estimated \$3,000 worth of savings generated annually from the upgrade, the team will use this opportunity to engage staff and students in critical thinking about energy usage, energy costs, and actions they can take to reduce their personal energy consumption. The CERTs Seed Grant will cover the labor costs for the electrician contracted to remove ballasts, rewire fixtures, and install the LED lamps. (\$5,000)

### **City of Northfield: Solar for Northfield**

Northfield, MN – The City of Northfield's Climate Action Plan seeks to be 100% carbon free by 2040. Developing the city's solar potential is a critical step in achieving this ambitious goal. With this project, Northfield plans to create a citywide solar PV potentials study detailing both economic and environmental benefits. They further hope to identify the current energy usages of government buildings compared to regional/national peer groups, conduct outreach on renewable energy for affordable multi-family housing, and ultimately create a Solar PV Master Plan for City-owned facilities. CERTs Seed Grant funding will go towards engaging consulting services that will facilitate the process of research and development. (\$3,000)

## **City of Red Wing: City of Red Wing Climate Action Plan**

Red Wing, MN – The City of Red Wing will hire a consultant to develop a Climate Action Plan that provides a comprehensive pathway addressing climate change in Red Wing. The City engaged in a two-year process of listening to the community in service of developing a Red Wing 2040 Community Plan that truly reflected the concerns of the city’s constituents. One finding that emerged from these sessions was that a majority of the community wanted climate change to be recognized by the City in its actions and policies. Hiring a consultant to research and compile a Climate Action Plan is the first step in facilitating proactive decision-making to enhance the safety and long-term resilience of the Red Wing community. (\$3,030)

## **Rochester Parks and Recreation: Prairie House Battery Storage at Quarry Hill Nature Center**

Rochester, MN – The Quarry Hill Park and Nature Center (QHP&NC) provides free, outdoor activities and educational programming for the greater Rochester community. Its solar system produced 8.8 MWh of energy in its first year, double the amount required for the building’s functions, but was unable to store the surplus energy. With this grant, QHP&NC will partner with Solar Connection--installers of the original solar panel system--to connect batteries for storage and use of renewable energy onsite. The center’s high profile and strong community connection mean that this project will serve as a model for other buildings in the region and provide opportunities for community education on the benefits of renewable energy coupled with storage. (\$910)